

14 March 2019

To: SC Public Service Commission

From: Albert E. Fitzgerald, [REDACTED], Greenville, SC [REDACTED]

Re: Duke Energy Rate Increase Request

1. My wife's family have been Duke ratepayers since Dukes creation in 1924. I have been a Duke ratepayer for the past 40 years.
2. The Duke Energy rate increase request includes claims for reimbursement that are disingenuous.
3. Over the past 40 years I have paid Duke for its fuel costs in operating its coal fired electric generating plants. That fuel charge included the handling of the coal and the coal ash. Additionally, Duke sold 460,000 tons of coal ash in 2017 and at the market rate of \$24 per ton it generated \$11,040,000 in additional revenue. I am sure that when Dukes 2018 financials are released that it will show the same amount of coal ash being sold to cement companies. Yes, coal ash can be used by cement companies across the country and someone at Duke can find other uses for this coal ash and other buyers. By the way, Duke owns its own coal mine and still operates 13 coal fired electric generating plants making it the 43d most polluting company in the USA.
4. Additionally, Duke owns ^{five} ~~(5)~~ _{four} real estate subsidiary companies and does not disclose the real estate values of these subsidiaries. I would urge the SC PSC to have Duke sell off the real estate assets owned by these real estate subsidiaries before you grant any increases in rates.
5. Lastly, not one Duke ratepayer from SC was present in Duke's board room when the decision was made to invest \$125 million in the Lee Nuclear station. The construction of this station was abruptly stopped by Duke. This is very similar to SCE&G and Santee Cooper stopping construction on its nuclear power plants in Fairfield County. Should the SC Attorney General conduct an investigation into Duke's handling of this matter?
6. Andy Stanley once said, "Leaders who don't listen will eventually be surrounded by people who have nothing to say."

Respectfully,


Albert E. Fitzgerald

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(pursuant to Order 2019-236)

